

The Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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The Editor
THE BALTIMORE SUN
A. S. Abell Company
Calvert & Centre Streets
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

Dear Sir:

On November 1st, Mr. Garry Wills had an article in your paper entitled, "The CIA and the Press." In it he critiqued a speech I had given a few days before at the National Press Club. I am enclosing a copy of that speech since it would appear that Mr. Wills wrote from a second-hand report.

The basic issue is a comparison between the desire of the press to preserve the secrecy of its sources of information and the desire of the CIA to do the same. Mr. Wills states quite blatantly that the CIA wants not only to protect its sources but to hide its wrongdoings. I vehemently deny this, but more importantly I refer Mr. Wills to the portion of my speech on oversight. I clearly pointed out that no matter what motives you impute to myself and others in the leadership of the Central Intelligence Agency, we are today under very rigorous oversight from both the Executive and Legislative Branches of our government. Mr. Wills and any citizen have good assurance from the oversight process that secrecy will not be abused.

Next, Mr. Wills expressly says that I said "...reporters should not print the leaks of wrongdoing in government by whistleblowers." I said nothing of the sort and refer you to the text I have enclosed. I only said that we should be suspect of whistleblowers who don't resort to the established oversight procedures before disclosing government secrets to the press and that the members of the press might do well to be skeptical themselves of many whistleblowers. I have in many public speeches affirmed my conviction that a number of whistleblowers in recent years have provided a great service to our country.